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H – 1001

International Court of Justice

Com. B.
Winkler
Take 1 - 5
1000 - 1130 hours
28 June 1946
~~Kuehl~~ Kuehl

H1001 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

28 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. I. D. McIlwraith

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at ~~1030~~ 1040 hours)

EDUARD KUEHL, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR. I. D. MCILWRAITH:

Q. What is your full name?

A. Eduard Kuehl

Q. Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me?

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the ~~whole~~ pure truth and will withhold and ~~hide~~ add nothing.

(The Witness repeated the oath)

MR. MC ILWRAITH: Will counsel state ~~the~~ for the purpose of the record, who he is and who he represents and what he intends to prove by the witness.

DR. BERGES: Dr. Berges for the Party (NSDAP)

MR. MC ILWRAITH: Now what ~~is your purpose~~ do you propose to prove with the witness?

DR. BERGES: Mr. Kuehl, who was a Kreisleiter in Hannover, is supposed to describe the activities of the Corps of Political Leaders, and to express himself on the charges of the prosecution in regard to the persecution of Jews, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ churches, treatment of foreign aviators, and treatment of foreign labor. I begin with the questions which concern the organization and structure of the Corps of Political Leaders; however, I would like to have at first for the record, the questions regarding the personality of the witness.

Com. B.
Winkler
Take 1 - 6
1000 - 1130 hours
28 June 1946
~~XXXXXXXXX~~ Kuehl

H1001-0003

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. BERGES:

Q. Witness state quite briefly your professional career.

A. I was born April 9, 1896. I became administrative community official in 1911. I finished in 1914 my training period. I was a soldier from 1915 to 1918, and from then on continuously active as communal administrative official. Since October 1923, I was mayor. At first in Hohenwestid in Holstein until March 1935, and beginning with March 1935, I was mayor in Drochtersen Kreis Stade, and beginning with 1943, I was deputy of the Mayor of Stade, and I was active ~~XXX~~ as mayor until I was arrested on May 10, last year.

Q. The prosecution has made charges against the Corps of Political Leaders and states that the expression Corps of Political Leaders should be used in accordance with Nazi terminology. Could you tell us on the basis of your large experience in the Corps of Political Leaders, by what factors did one become a Political Leader?

A. Political Leaders were appointed from the ranks of the members of the NSDAP.

LT. COL. JONES: May I interrupt. Just to get this matter clear. I understood the witness to say that he was a mayor, and I may have misunderstood him, but I ~~thought I~~ was under the impression he hadn't given any evidence of being a Political Leader so far.

DR. BERGES: That question was omitted by mistake.

Q. Give us briefly the political offices you were holding.

A. I joined the Nazi Party on May 1, 1933. On February 1, 1934, I became expert supervisor to the Ortsgruppenleiter on communal affairs in Hohenwestid. That function was discontinued by my leaving that town in March 1935. I had moved to Volkskartei in January 1936; the Gauleiter for East Hannover appointed me Ortsgruppenleiter of Volkskartei. I held that office until the end of April last year.

7

H1001 - 0004

In addition to that I held the office of an honorary Kreisleiter in the Kreis Stade since May 17, 1943.

Q. I'm coming back to my previous questions and summarize. Is it a matter of fact that in accordance with Nazi terminology you became a Political Leader by appointment?

A. Yes.

Q. That would mean that one does not become a Political Leader by holding a certain or fulfilling a certain function, but only by expressive appointment?

A. Yes.

Q. I have in front of me the Organization Book NSDAP, which we used already yesterday - the fourth edition, P.S. 1893, page 23, and there expressively the distinction is made between appointment to and call to office. You are prepared to testify that that distinction which the Organization Book made existed actually in practice.

A. I do not know the theoretical explanations given by the Organization Book.

Q. But if I quote to you from the Organization Book - "One has to distinguish between a call to office and an appointment - call to office is issued in regard to the actual work and appointment is made in regard to the rank held by the office holder." Then that is actually that distinction which was made in practice?

A. Yes, those explanations are in accordance with the conditions as they actually existed.

Q. To prevent any possible misunderstandings, I would care to clarify again there was a distinction between the function of an ~~officer~~ office holder and the service rank he was holding?

A. Yes.

Q. The quotation continues: "It is possible that the Gauleiter calls someone to hold the office of the director of a Gau office or to be the man in charge of the Gau propaganda, but does not necessarily mean that he receives

H1001 - 0005

the rank of ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ that office." Is this in accordance with the practice of the Party?

A. Yes, that is indeed correct . Yes, those cases were quite frequent, particularly during the war. For instance, I myself, who was holding the rank of an Ortsgruppenleiter initiated the duties of a Kreisleiter/

Q. Would it, therefore, be correct to say that all those Block and Zellenleiters who had special Commission only for the duration of the War - that all those should not be included into the category of Political Leaders?

A. Yes, appointments were made in a very formal way and in the appointment the rank to which you were appointed was always specified.

Q. Were there in your district Block and Zellenleiters who were not members of the NaziParty, but merely candidates for Party membership?

A. Yes.

Q. Were there ones who filled that function of Block and Zellenleiter?

A. Yes, that happened too.

Q. In these respects we found that the description given by the Party Organization Book is in accordance with the facts. The prosecution charges that the Organization Book should be considered in general the official hand book of the Party. Is that way to characterize the Organization Book correct?

A. No.

Q. Do you know of occasions in which the Organization Book has been used for instructions and training by Political Leaders similar to the field service instructions of the Army?

A. If I remember correctly the first edition of that book was published in 1936. The Organization Book was not discussed in any Gau or Kreis meeting I attended since that date.

Q. How do you explain that the Organization Book was published in such large numbers?

H1001 – 0006

A. The Organization Book was considered as a service manual of the Party, and accordingly distributed to all Ortsgruppenleiters within the Reich.

Q. You would say that there was a certain compulsory distribution?

A. Yes, the distribution was considered a matter of course, and therefore it would be fair to characterize it as involuntary.

Q. I come now to a few points of the Organization Book which contain new regulations. I would like to hear how things actually were handled in practice. Do you know that the term Hoheitstrager was ~~xxxx~~ used in a different or in a new manner in the Organization Book?

A. I heard so, but I stated already before that I never read the Organization Book.

Q. I can tell you all the details. The Organization Book calls the Block and Zellenleiters Hoheitstragers.

MR. MC ILWRAITH: Is it ~~write~~ rigler that you should give evidence in this court?

DR. BERGES: I believe that there shouldn't be an objection against any information given the witness on the contents of that book.

MR. MC ILWRAITH: What question are you leading up to?

DR. BERGES: The witness is expected to give testimony in regard to the actual conditions as they might have been in conflict with the theoretical statements in the Organization Book.

MR. MC ILWRAITH: It would be perfectly satisfactory to ask the witness what the practice was and then ~~he~~ he can ~~xxx~~ state how that differed ~~ent~~ from the book.

DR. BERGES: I was only trying to shorten the proceedings, but I'll follow your instructions.

Q. On the basis of your political experience, do you know the tasks and

5

H1001 - 0007

and purpose of the Block and Zellenleiters?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you briefly sketch the main tasks of the Block and Zellenleiter?

A. Yes I have learned from various conversations which I had with former Blockleiters and Zellenleiters in the internment camp, that Block and Zellenleiters were considered Political Leaders.

Q. I want to come back to my last question--

A. In practice the Zellenleiter was the liaison man between the Ortsgruppenleiters and Blockleiters, and the Blockleiter is to be considered as an assistant of the Ortsgruppenleiter. The activity of the Blockleiter was of insignficance.

Q. Witness, it was suggested by the Commission that you should give real examples of the actual work done by the Block and Zellenleiters?

A. One of the regular tasks given by the Party to the Blockleiter was the collecting of Party membership fees. Furthermore, from time to time he had to distribute propaganda material, to invite the residents of his block to attend Party meetings, and during the War, he had in an ever increasing extent to give care to the people within his district. I think, for instance, that in rural areas, he had to organize the neighborhood relief system among farmers.

Q. I think that is sufficient for that point. The thing which we are interested in here is whether he had any so-called Hoheitstrager privileges , and whether he had the right to mobilize people andsimilar things?

A. It is entirely impossible to speak of any Hoheitstrager rights and privileges of the Blockleiter.

Q. Nevertheless the prosecution calls the Block and Zellenleiters little Nazi princes. Was there any kind of total responsibility even if only in an unlimited field which the Block and Zellenleiter possessed?

A. No the total responsibility was exclusively resting with the Ortsgruppenleiter.

H1001 - 0008

leiter.

Q. Did the Block and Zellenleiters have a staff of their own?

A. No.

Q. The Block and Zellenleiters are charged by the prosecution to have served as spies. On the basis of your experience, do you know anything about that?

A. There never existed any kind of a Party spy system. Something like that simply couldn't exist in reality, because such a thing would have made the work of the Party impossible from the very beginning. Blockleiters had been living for a long time in their districts. They were closely connected with the residents of their blocks, and they would have disturbed their own domestic peace if they had carried out spy functions of any kind.

Q. I would like to go a little deeper into that matter by using a document which has been used before by the prosecution. I don't know the P.S. number just now. It is characterized as document 901A. It is a circular letter issued by the Gau organizations office of Cologne-Aachen of March 31, 1941. In that circular letter the Block and Zellenleiters are charged with the establishment and maintenance of a political filing system. That directive charges the Block and Zellenleiters to put on the individual file cards whether the individual was a member of the Party, what his political attitude was, what newspapers he was reading, whether he possessed a Swastika flag, and whether he possessed a radio receiver, and it is further said in that directive that that information should be gathered not in an open, but a hidden manner, and this is called setting up of a househols file system. Have you learned of any instructions similar to those issued by this Gau Cologne-Aachen? Have you learned of any similar ones in your district?

A. Yes, I know of those instructions in regard to the setting up of a so-called household file system.

H1001 - 0009

Q. Please tell us the purpose of those files.

A. Those filecards were quite similar to the file cards of the so-called Volkskartei maintained by the State offices, and those file systems should be used as a bisis for the care and service program of the Party. If and when the Gau organization office of Cologne-Aachen issued instructions that on those file cards remarks should be made in regard to possession of a flag, radio receiver, newspapers, etc, I ~~made~~ may say that that went far beyond the original instructions. There was no secret about setting up of that household file system. For instance, in my district, East Hannover, the heads of the households themselves filled those file cards out.

Q. In that regard I would like to point out to you that the instructions given by the Gau of Cologne-Aachen strictly prohibited that the file cards should be filled personally by the residents of the Block and Zell. To come back to your own district, which is actually the only one ~~from~~ for which you can give evidence, did there exist in your district household files which contained that kind of political information and had similar instructions been issued to the lower political leaders?

A. For the Gau East Hannover and particularly the Kreis Stadt, I have to answer no to your question.

Q. Then I would like to come to another subject. Both Kreisleiters and Gauleiters had rather large staffs of assistants. The Organization Book distinguishes in regard to those staffs, between functions of higher importance and lesser importance. On the basis of your own experience, please tell us which individuals were directly concerned with the political guidance of people.

A. On the staff of the Kreisleiter, you have to distinguish between those office holders who assisted directly the Kreisleiter in the fulfillment of his duties and those people who mainly served the associated and affiliated organizations. For the fulfillment of his own tasks the Kreisleiter used the following:

H1001 - 0010

the staff offices, the personnel office, press office, training office, organization office, and treasury. These were the so-called leading offices which were actually at the disposal and personal use of the Kreisleiter; however, of course, with certain limitations, this is particularly true in regard to the propaganda office which recieved directives directly from the Reich propaganda office through the Gau Propaganda office.

Q. There was also a certain sub-division of the speakers of the Party?

A. Yes, there were so-called professional speakers who spoke on certain professional fields, and there were so-called general political speakers.

Q. The prosecution supports its charge of a conspiracy by referring to periodical meetings and conferences. Tell us on what conferences and conversations and meetings did you participate and in what functions.

A. In 1934 I participated in two Kreis conferences and I believe two Gau conferences in Gau Schleswig-Holstein.

H1001 - 0011

Q. My question rather referred to periodical meetings within the Party.

A. From 1936 on, I attended the regular periodical meetings of the ortsgruppenleiter in East Hannover and the conferences of the kreisleiter in Kreis Stade.

Q. Were those conferences and meetings of a secret nature, and was the number of participants limited?

Q. You cannot speak at all of secret conferences, particularly since the circle of participants was constantly changing. Not only the ortsgruppenleiter, on the kreis level the kreis/ officeholders, participated, but also the leaders of the State authorities.

Q. Were any matters touched there which had anything to do with the crimes against ~~the~~ peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity--those crimes listed in Article Six of the Charter?

A. No, those matters were never discussed or touched upon.

Q. In that regard, the indictment makes use also of the Program of the Nazi Party. There are various points contained within the Party Program from which the Prosecution concluded that they inevitably led to aggressive war and the other crimes. In regard to aggressive warfare, the demand for the union of all Germans and the demands for colonies are mentioned. In regard to crimes against humanity, reference is made to anti-Semitism, a point contained within the Program of the Party. Therefore, I ask you now, how did you and the other Political Leiters of your district visualize the fulfillment of those points of the Party Program, and did you think that they would lead to crimes?

A. In my opinion, it could not be concluded inevitably from the Party Program that those points would lead to those crimes. The Political Leiters and myself never thought that any of those points would lead to crimes against peace, war crimes, and the other crimes against humanity. We interpreted Point One of the Party Program as a distant goal of the Party. That point was supported particularly

H1001 - 0012

by the fact that, after ~~the~~ World War One, the point was generally supported that all peoples should have self-determination. The point regarding anti-Semitism, in our opinion, was particularly based on the fact that, after the first World War, a large number of Eastern Jews came from Poland to the Reich.

Q. I believe we can shorten proceedings by stating that you did not believe that the Party Program would lead to the/se crimes?

A. I can state that it was the general opinion of the Political Leiters of my district.

MR. McILWRAITH: Doctor Berges, would it suit you to break off for ten minutes now?

DR. BERGES: Yes.

MR. McILWRAITH: And is the next witness, Wolff, here?

DR. BERGES: Yes.

MR. McILWRAITH: And ~~so~~ you propose to introduce his evidence now?

DR. BERGES: Yes.

MR. McILWRAITH: Very well, then, in ten minutes we will take Wolf.

(recess)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of EDWARD KUEHL taken on 28 June 1946.

Bernice Winkler
Reporter 1-9

D. Noll
Reporter 10-11

CERTIFIED TO:

I. D. Whitcraft
Commissioner

H1001-0013

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

H1001-0014

COMMISSIONER:

mr. I.D.McIlwraith

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at 1040 hours)

EDUARD KUEHL, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR.I.D.MCILWRAITH:

Q What is your full name?

A Eduard Kuehl.

Q Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me?

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omiscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withold and add nothing.

(The Witness repeated the oath)

MR.McILWRAITH: Will counsel state for the purpose of the record, who he is and who he represents and what he intends to prove by the witness.

DR. BERGES: Dr. Berges for the Party (NSDAP)

MR. McILWRAITH: Now what do you propose to prove with the witness?

DR. BERGES: Mr. Kuehl, who was a Kreisleiter in Hannover, is supposed to describe the activities of the Corps of Political Leaders, and to express himself on the charges of the prosecution in regard to the persecution of Jews, churches, treatment of foreign navigators, and treatment of foreign labor. I begin with the questions which concern the organization and structure of the Corps of Political Leaders; however, I would like to have first for the record, the questions regarding the personality of the witness.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. BERGES:

Q Witness state quite briefly your professional career.

A I was born April 9, 1896. I became administrative community official in 1911. I finished in 1914 my training period. I was a soldier from 1915 to 1918, and from then on continuously active as communal administrative official. Since October 1923, I was mayor. At first in Hohenwestid in Holstein until March 1935 and beginning with March 1935, I was mayor in Drochtersen Kreis Stade, and beginning with 1943, I was deputy of the Mayor of Stade, and I was active as a

H1001 - 0015

mayor until I was arrested on May 10, last year.

Q The Prosecution has made charges against the Corps of Political Leaders and states that the expression Corps of Political Leaders should be used in accordance with Nazi terminology. Could you tell us on the basis of your large experience in the Corps of Political Leaders, by what factors did one become a Political Leader?

A Political Leaders were appointed from the ranks of the members of the NSDAP.

LT.COL.JONES: May I interrupt. Just to get this matter clear. I understood the witness to say that he was a mayor, and I may have misunderstood him but I was under the impression he hadn't given any evidence of being a Politi Leader so far.

DR. BERGES: That question was omitted by mistake.

Q Give us briefly the political offices you were holding.

A I joined the Nazi Party on May 1, 1933. On February 1, 1934, I became expert supervisor to the Ortsgruppenleiter on communal affairs in Hohenwestid. That function was discontinued by my leaving that town in March 1935. I had moved to Volkskartei in January 1936; the Gauleiter for East Hannover appointe me Ortsgruppenleiter of Volkskartei. I held that office until the end of April last year. In addition to that I held the office of an honorary Kreisleiter in the Kreis stade since May 17, 1943.

Q I8m coming back to my previous questions and summarize. Is it a matter of fact that in accordance with Nazi terminology you became a Political Leader by appointment?

A Yes.

Q That would mean that one does not become a Political Leader by holdin a certain or fulfilling a certain function, but only by express appointment?

A Yes.

Q I have in front of me the Organization Book NSDAP, which we used alrea yesterday - the fourth edition, PS.1893, page 23, and there expressly the distinction is made between appointment to and call to office. You are prepared t testify that that distinction which the organization Book made existed actuall in practice.

A I do not know the theoretical explanations given by the Organization B

Q But if I quote to you from the Organization Book - "One has to distinguish between a call to office and an appointment - call to office is issued in regard to the actual work and appointment is made in regard to the rank held by the office holder." Then that is actually that distinction which was made in practice?

A Yes, those explanations are in accordance with the conditions as they actually existed.

Q To prevent any possible misunderstanding, I would care to clarify agai there was a distinction between the function of an office holder and the servic rank he was holding?

A Yes.

Q The quotation continues: "It is possible that the Gauleiter calls som one to hold the office of the director of a Gau office or to be the man in charge of the Gau propaganda, but does not necessarily mean that he receives the rank of that office." Is this in accordance with the practice of the Party?

A Yes, that is indeed correct. Yes, those cases were quite frequent, par cularly during the war. For instance, I myself, who was holding the rank of an Ortsgruppenleiter initiated the duties of a Kreisleiter?

Q Would it, therefore, be correct to say that all those Block and Zellenleiters who had special Commission only for the duration of the War - that all those should not be included into the category of Political Leaders?

A Yes, appointments were made in a very formal way and in the appointment the rank to which you were appointed was always specified.

Q Were there in your district Block and Zellenleiters who were not member of the Nazi Party, but merely candidates for Party membership?

A Yes.

Q Were there ones who filled that function of Block and Zellenleiters?

A Yes, that happened too.

Q In these respects we found that the description given by the Party Organization Book is in accordance with the facts. The Prosecution charges that the OrganizationsBook should be considered in general the official hand book of the Party. Is that way to characterize the Organization Book correct?

A No.

Q Do you know of occasions in which the Organization Book has been used

H1001 - 0016

for instructions and training by Political Leaders similar to the field service instructions of the Army?

A If I remember correctly the first edition of that book was published in 1936. The Organization Book was not discussed in any Gau or Kreis meeting I attended since that date.

Q How do you explain that the Organization Book was published in such large numbers?

A The Organization Book was considered as a service manual of the Party, and accordingly distributed to all Ortsgruppenleiters within the Reich.

Q You would say that there was a certain compulsory distribution?

A Yes, the distribution was considered a matter of course, and therefore it would be fair to characterize it as involuntary.

Q I come now to a few points of the Organization Book which contain new regulations. I would like to hear how things actually were handled in practice Do you know that the term Hoheitstrager was used in a different or in a new manner in the Organization Book?

A I heard so, but I stated already before that I never read the Organization Book.

Q I can tell you all the details. The Organization Book calls the Block and Zellenleiters Hoheitstragers.

MR. MC ILWRAITH: Is it right that you should give evidence in this court

DR. BERGES: I believe that there shouldn't be an objection against any information given the witness on the contents of that book.

MR. MCILWRAITH: What question are you leading up to?

DR. BERGES: The witness is expected to give testimony in regard to the actual conditions as they might have been in conflict with the theoretical statements in the Organization Book.

MR. MCILWRAITH: It would be perfectly satisfactory to ask the witness what the practice was and then he can state how that differs from the book.

DR. BERGES: I was only trying to shorten the proceedings, but I'll follow your instructions.

Q On the basis of your political experience, do you know the tasks and purpose of the Block and Zellenleiters?

A Yes.

H1001-0017

Q Could you briefly sketch the main tasks of the Block and Zellenleiters?

A Yes, I have learned from various conversations which I had with former Blockleiters and Zellenleiters in the internment camp, that Block and Zellenleiters were considered Political leaders.

Q I want to come back to my last question--

A In practice the Zellenleiter was the liason man between the Ortsgruppe leiters and Blockleiters, and the Blockleiter is to be considered as an assistant of the Ortsgruppenleiter. The activity of the Blockleiter was of insignificance.

Q Witness, it was suggested by the Commission that you should give real examples of the actual work done by the Blockleiters and Zellenleiters?

A One of the regular tasks given by the Party to the Blockleiter was the collecting of Party membership fees. Furthermore, from time to time he had to distribute propaganda material, to invite the residents of his block to attend Party meetings, and during the war, he had an ever increasing extent to give care to the people within his district. I think, for instance, that in rural areas, he had to organize the neighborhood relief system among farmers.

Q I think that is sufficient for that point. The thing which we are interested in here is whether he had any so-called Hoheistrager priveleges, and whether he had the right to mobilize people and similar things?

A It is entirely impossible to speak of any Hohitstrager rights and priveleges of the Blockleiter.

Q Nevertheless the Prosecution calls the Block and Zellenleiters little Nazi princes. Was there any kind of total responsibility even if only in an unlimited field which the Block and Zellenleiter possessed?

A No the total responsibility was exclusively resting with the Ortsgruppenleiter.

H1001-0018

H1001-0019

leiter.

Q Did the Block and Zellenleiters have a staff of their own?

A No.

Q The Block and Zellenleiters are charged by theprosecution to have served as spies. On the basis of your experience, do you know anything about that?

A There never existed any kind of a Party spy system. Something like that simply couldn't exist in reality, because such a thing would have made the work of the Party impossible from the very beginning. Blockleiters had been living for a long time in their districts. They were closely connected with the residents of their blocks, and they would have disturbed their own domestic peace if they h.. carried out spy functions of any kind.

Q I would like to go a little deeper into that matter by using a document which has been used before by the prosecution. I don't know the P.S. number just now. It is characterized as document 901A. It is a circular letter issued by the Gau organizations office of Cologne-Aachen of March 31, 1941. In that circular letter the Block and Zellenleiters are charged with the establishment and maintenance of a political filing system. That directive charges the Block and Zellenleiters to put on the individual file cards whether the individual was a member of the Party, what his political attitude was, what newspapers he was reading, whether he possessed a Swastika flag, and whether he possessed a radio receiver, and it is further said in that directive that that information should be gathered not in an open, but a hidden manner, and this is called setting up of a household file system. Have you learned of any instructions similar to those issued by this Gau Cologne-Aachen. Have you learned of any similar ones in your district?

A Yes, I know of those instructions with regard to the setting up of a so-called household file system.

Q Please tell us the purpose of those files.

A Those filecards were quite similar to the file cards of the so-called Volkskartei maintained by the State offices, and those file systems should be used as a basis for the care and service program of the Party. If and when the Gau organization office of Cologne-Aachen issued instructions

H1001 - 0020

that on those file cards remarks should be made in regard to possession of a flag, radio receiver, newspapers, etc. I may say that that went far beyond the original instructions. There was no secret about setting up of that household file system. For instance, in my district, East Hannover, the heads of the households themselves filled those file cards out.

Q In that regard I would like to point out to you that the instructions given by the Gau of Cologne-Aachen strictly prohibited that the file cards should be filled personally by the residents of the Block and Zell. To come back to your own district, which is actually the only one for which you can give evidence, did there exist in your district household files which contained that kind of political information and had similar instructions had been issued to the lower political leaders?

A For the Gau East Hannover and particularly the Kreis Stadt, I have to answer no to your question.

Q Then I would like to come to another subject. Both Kreisleiters and Gauleiters had rather large staffs of assistants. The Organization Book distinguishes in regard to those staffs, between functions of higher importance and lesser importance. On the basis of your own experience, please tell us which individuals were directly concerned with the political guidance of people.

A On the staff of the Kreisleiter, you have to distinguish between those office holders who assisted directly the Kreisleiter in the fulfilment of his duties and those people who mainly served the associated and affiliated organizations. For the fulfilment of his own tasks the Kreisleiter used the following: the staff offices, the personnel office, press office, training office, organization office, and treasury. These were the so-called leading offices which were actually at the disposal and personal use of the Kreisleiter; however, of course, with certain limitations, this is particularly true in regard to the propaganda office which received directives directly from the Reich propaganda office through the Gau Propaganda office.

Q There was also a certain sub-division of the speakers of the Party?

A Yes, there were so-called professional speakers who spoke on certain professional fields, and there were so-called general political speakers

H1001 - 0021

Q The prosecution supports its charge of a conspiracy by referring to periodical meetings and conferenc[illegible]ll us on what conferences and conversations and meetings did you participate and in what functions?

A In 1934 I participated in two Kreis conferences and I believe two Gau conferences in Gau Schleswig-Holstein.

H1001 - 0022

Q. My question rather referred to periodical meetings within the Party.

A. From 1936 one, I attended the regular periodical meetings of the Ortsgruppenleiter in East Hannover, and the conferences of the Kreisleiter in Krois Stade.

Q. Were these conferences and meetings of a secret nature, and was the number of participants limited?

Q. You cannot speak at all of secret conferences, particularly since the circle of participants was constantly changing. Not only the Ortsgruppenleiter, on the krois level the krois office holders, participated, but also the leaders of the State authorities.

Q. Were any matters touched there which had anything to with the crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity--those crimes listed in Article Six of the Charter?

A. No, these matters were never discussed or touched upon.

Q. In that regard, the indictment makes use also of the Program of the Nazi Party. There are various points contained within the Party Program from which the Prosecution concluded that they inevitably led to aggressive war and the other crimes. In regard to aggressive warfare, the demand for the union of all Germans and the demands for colonies are mentioned. In regard to crimes against humanity, reference is made to anti-Semitism, a point contained within the Program of the Party. Therefore, I ask you now, how did you and the other Political Leitors of your district visualize the fulfillment of those points of the Party Program, and did you think that they would lead to crimes?

A. In my opinion, it could not be concluded inevitably from the Party Program that those points would lead to these crimes. The Political Leitors and myself never thought that any of those points would lead to crimes against

H1001 - 0023

peace, war crimes, and the other crimes against humanity. We interpreted Point One of the Party Program as a distant goal of the Party. That point was supported particularly by the fact that, after World War One, the point was generally supported that all peoples should have self-determination. The point regarding anti-Semitism, in our opinion, was particularly based on the fact that, after the first World War, a large number of Eastern Jews came from Poland to the Reich.

Q. I believe we can shorten proceedings by stating that you did not believe that the Party Program would lead to these crimes?

A. I can state that it was the general opinion of the Political Leiters of my district.

MR. McILWRAITH: Doctor Berges, would it suit you to break off for ten minutes now?

DR. BERGES: Yes.

MR. McILWRAITH: And is the next witness, Wolf, here?

DR. BERGES: Yes.

MR. McILWRAITH: And do you propse to introduce his evidence now?

DR. BERGES: Yes.

MR. McILWRAITH: Very well, then, in ten minutes we will take Wolf.

(A Recess)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of EDWARD KUEHL taken on 28 June 1946.

BERNICE WINKLER
Reporter

DOROTHY J. NOLL
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

I.D. McILWRAITH
Commissioner.